the occurrence of the species in the Perth and neighbouring districts during the autumn of this year (1949): Yanchep, Miss S. Elliott saw a male on May 10; Mr. A. Gardiner saw a male on June 5. Lesmurdie, Miss M. V. B. Green saw a male on May 10; it was still present a few days later. Bickley, Mr. W. H. Loaring saw a female on April 28 and 29. North Dandalup, Mr. T. M. Smith saw a pair, male and female, on June 16, 1½ miles west of the railway line. West Coolup, Mr. Smith saw a male bird on his farm on May 26, June 2 and June 3. Coolup, Mr. A. H. Robinson saw a female on June 11.

Messrs. Smith and Robinson had never previously observed the species in their districts. Mr. Robinson writes: "I saw the bird (a female) being chased by a female Scarlet Robin *(Petroeca multicolor)*. Later again in the same locality I saw a similar occurrence with probably the same birds. The male Scarlet Robin showed no aggressive behaviour; he left the driving out of the stranger entirely to his mate."

——EDITOR.

Occurrence of King River Perchlet in the Margaret River.—During April 1948 I visited the Margaret River, near Rosa Brook, in order to obtain specimens of the Pigmy Perch *(Nannoperca vittata)* for my small aquarium. Here there are very deep, long pools of fresh water with shallower sections in between. It was in these shallow, weedy pools that I searched. I used a small net made of fly wire and was successful in obtaining the specimens I needed. I noticed that one of the fish was different from the others, having a more slender body and eyes larger in proportion.

The fish were placed in the aquarium and I consulted the *Western Australian Naturalist*, vol. 1, no. 3, to identify the strange fish. I considered it to be *Nannatherina balstoni*, the King River Perchlet, and this was later confirmed by Mr. Bruce Shipway. This fish kept apart from the specimens of Pigmy Perch, usually swimming within a few inches of the surface and seldom went to the bottom of the aquarium. I was using chopped-up earthworms to feed the fish, but the *Nannatherina* did not eat for several days; then it would dash in for its share among the others.

This fish had been in the aquarium about three weeks when one night I inadvertently left the cover off. In the morning I found it had jumped out on to the table and was dead. I placed it in preservative and later gave the specimen to Mr. Bruce Shipway. Several attempts to obtain further specimens in the Margaret River have failed.

—H. O. WEBSTER, Waterloo.

Wire Nests of Magpies.—The Western Magpie *(Gymnorhina dorsalis)* is reported, from time to time, building nests entirely from pieces of wire. In the *Gould League Notes*, 1949-50, p. 25 Mr. C. S. Hamilton, of the Government School, Kellerberrin, describes such a nest from Lake Grace. It weighed 5 lb. and was made up of 238 separate pieces of wire ranging from 4½ inches to 4 feet 2 inches in length, and totalling 243 feet in length. A much larger nest from Caron was sent for exhibition at the Wild Life Show by

Mr. E. H. Sedgwick. The nest was from the property of Mr. A. Farr, one mile north of Caron, and was built in a York gum. It was said to have been constructed in the 1947 season, but was blown down by mid-September winds before it was actually used. The nest weighed 13¾ lb. and when I took it to pieces, found it to consist of 286 pieces of wire which totalled 338 feet in length. The pieces ranged from 3 inches to 4 feet 10 inches, but most were between 7 inches and 1 foot 8 inches, the mean length being 1 foot 2 inches. Most of the pieces were of twisted scraps of fencing wire of various gauges, with several bits of barbed wire and a few lengths of thinner wire. There were also two wire bucket handles, some wire bent into the form of a spectacle frame, evidently by a child, and a length of lead-insulated telephone cable, 2 feet long. Besides the wire there was also a piece of twine which the birds had either knotted around the wires or passed the wires through the twine.

—D. L. SERVENTY, Nedlands.

***Eucalyptus* from Abrolhos Islands.**—Some time ago I received from Dr. D. L. Serventy a specimen of a species of *Eucalyptus* from East Wallaby Island in the Abrolhos group, the first record of the genus from these islands. An examination showed the species to be *Eucalyptus gracilis* F. Muell., the Yorrel tree of the interior, commonly associated with heavy clay soils in low-lying situations and exhibiting a certain degree of salt tolerance. Since this species is, as far as we know, confined to the interior and nowhere known from nearer the coast than one hundred miles, it is of more than passing interest that it should occur again in a maritime situation growing in limestone soils. The plant from the Abrolhos is typical except that its leaves appear to be of thicker texture and of a brighter green.

Dr. Serventy collected the plant on December 8, 1945, during a visit to the Abrolhos with Mr. G. P. Whitley and the late Erik Akerstrom in the ketch "Isobel." The eucalypts grew only in one locality on East Wallaby Island and formed a dense but narrow thicket about 200 yards long, in a north-south line. The formation was of stunted tree growth, not mallee, and bent down by the southerly winds. The plants were in bud and flower at the time Mr. Akerstrom discovered the thicket about eight years previously and stated that it had increased in width since he had last seen it but had become bent over more. Previously it had been taller. The height was now about 7-8 feet.

—C. A. GARDNER, State Herbarium, Perth.

An Introduced Pond Snail in the Murray District.—The pond snail, *Limnaea (Peplimnaea) lessoni* of eastern Australia, only made its presence felt in the Coolup swamps in the last few years. In 1940 we had a very light winter with a precipitation of only 20.30 inches. Most of the peat swamps, which usually fill up in the winter, remained completely dry as did the "Yanjettee" swamps, which usually have four or five feet of water in the winter months and do not dry off until January or February. At this time as far as I know the snail was not present. It appears to have arrived during the winter of 1941 and had reached alarming proportions by Novem-